



Youth

Caitlyn Kramer (Douglas) – As an 8-year old third grader, Ms. Kramer has donated toys and books to Child Protective Services, the Douglas Fire Department, and the Cochise County Sheriff's Department to help less fortunate children. Ms. Kramer has also become a friend to children in difficult situations by volunteering at a Domestic Violence Shelter, where she reads books, bakes and decorates cookies, makes crafts, and watches movies. The children now look forward to her visits. To benefit the shelter, Ms. Kramer served as a guest speaker for a Candlelight Walk and Vigil in Douglas, and has also participated in the Crop Walk helping to raise \$50,000. Ms. Kramer's dedication and spirit have been a great help to the people of Douglas.

Jason Sanchez (Prescott) – Mr. Sanchez helped start a youth-run business that recycles used computers, a unique service in Northern Arizona. The business has raised \$13,000 for youth leadership scholarships. Mr. Sanchez has also partnered with a local fire department to lead disaster preparedness training, resulting in a presentation for an international Red Cross conference. Mr. Sanchez earned a grant to install carbon-monoxide detectors and smoke alarms in low-income housing. Mr. Sanchez serves on the Youth Advisory Board of the Youth Volunteer Corps and served as a reporter for a teen news program on public access T.V. Mr. Sanchez is an inspiration to those around him.

Youth Group

Elder Help Project, STAR School (Flagstaff) – The focus of the STAR School's Elder Help Project's is to reunite generations and establish mentoring relationships with senior citizens to share the Navajo culture. The project assists elderly sheep ranchers by repairing sheep corrals, fences, and building a shade structure for shearing. The project has sponsored two food drives and regularly travels great distances to assist elderly with household chores. The project also initiated a partnership with NAU to assist in a landscaping and beautification project in Leupp, Arizona. The STAR School is a small community with a large heart that dreams big. The students in the school truly embody the spirit of service and learning.

Heart of Glendale Teen Council (Glendale) – Located in a disadvantaged neighborhood, Glendale Teen Council members work to benefit their neighborhood. Through a careful process of working to identify and address community needs, the Council has generated \$317,000 to assist with a park improvement project. The Council is now researching playground equipment, shade structures and meeting with architects to finalize plans for park renovations. The teens have learned that they can be a voice for others and make the change they would like to see in Arizona.

Adult

Tracy Candelaria (Concho) – Ms. Candelaria exemplifies positive community engagement and is a member of many committees, boards and clubs. She works to be the best school board member she can be and has coordinated successful school projects. For years, Ms. Candelaria has coordinated a free Thanksgiving dinner, opened the church hall as a youth center and freely gives her time to support other community programs for youth. Ms. Candelaria helped build the Lion's Park and also started a community newsletter. She now serves as the director of the community center where she recruits and organizes volunteers. The community of Concho has benefited greatly from the tireless efforts of Tracy Candelaria.

William “Bill” Andres (Phoenix) – In the past two years, Mr. Andres and the Valley of the Sun Diaper Bank have delivered 125,000 diapers to 50 partner agencies. Mr. Andres has been engaged in all aspects of work for the Diaper Bank from backbreaking work in the warehouse to setting strategy. He has developed an agency newsletter called “The Bottom Line”. Mr. Andres coordinates innovative fund-raising campaigns for purchasing diapers, which has resulted in providing 500,000 diapers to babies, elderly and the disabled. Mr. Andres took it upon himself and recognized a need for diapers in the Phoenix area and built key collaborative relationships to organize the Diaper Bank, which now has over 100 volunteers. Mr. Andres’ vision and dedicated volunteer effort has helped meet an important need in Arizona.

Adult Group

Phoenix Police Reserve (Phoenix) – Comprised of 300 officers, the Phoenix Police Reserve volunteers to assist with the duty of protecting, serving and policing Phoenix. The program enables retired officers and others with the necessary certification and training to serve as volunteers and help keep the City of Phoenix safe and secure. The new Reserve program retains over 1,000 years of police experience and has saved the Phoenix Police Department over \$700,000. Reserve officers assist with complex investigations, community relations, DUI enforcement, crowd control, as well as many other integral community support duties. The Reserve is also trained and ready to respond to large-scale disasters.

Packages From Home (Phoenix) – An all-volunteer group, Packages From Home provides food, personal care items, seasonal comfort and recreation items to our troops overseas. Packages From Home started in 2004 when Kathleen Lewis began sending care and comfort packages to her son and the men in his military unit. Currently, the organization sends approximately 1,500 packages a month to troops deployed in harm’s way. The group has a volunteer base of 400, guided by a core group of 12.

Small Business

The Cultural Cup Food Bank (Phoenix) – After identifying a gap in services provided by area food banks, Zarinah Awad founded the Cultural Cup Food Bank in 1996. The Cultural Cup Food Bank provides food to meet the needs of people who have religious, health and/or dietary food restrictions. The Cultural Cup Food Bank also works with the community to build relationships that foster unity and diversity, and provides education about proper food handling, preparation and storage. The Cultural Cup Food Bank is also expanding to open a free health clinic and offers other social services. Weekly, the 300 families served are usually refugees and are referred by 30 other agencies. The organization is managed by two full-time volunteers and is supported by 250 regular volunteers.

Liz’s Pantry (Tucson) – Established in 1998 by the Laczkowski family, Liz’s Pantry is a family operation. Daughters Sasha and Barbara provide the program ideas, Dad coordinates logistics and Mom administers the project. Programs include a full-service food bank, school supply packs, baby supplies, personal hygiene and pet supplies. Liz’s Pantry also works in conjunction with Habitat for Humanity in Tucson to supply gift baskets to every family that gets a new house. They also serve Habitat by providing lunches to volunteers for special events. Liz’s Pantry has delivered school supply kits to 7,000 students, has provided food baskets to 74 Habitat families and has fed over 500 Habitat volunteers. The impact Liz’s Pantry has had on the Tucson community has been extensive, consistent and expanding.

Large Business

“1, 2, 3 Read Program” The Arizona Republic (Gilbert) – The 1, 2, 3, Read Program is a three-year partnership with Creighton Elementary School that helps first graders read at a third grade level by the end of the third grade. The Republic’s Release Time Policy permits employees to tutor during business hours. Over thirty-five employees have participated each year. The tutors have donated money for books and donate educational tax credit dollars to the school. The volunteers hold regular lunches with the teachers to foster positive communication. A series of articles has been published to increase public awareness regarding the challenges facing schools. The effort put forth by the tutors of the Arizona Republic’s “1, 2, 3 Read Program” is exceptional, and their tireless volunteer efforts make a huge difference.

Large Business

Town of Prescott Valley (Prescott Valley) – After Hurricane Katrina, town officials traveled to Pascagoula, Mississippi and determined that Pascagoula had an urgent need for fleet vehicles and books for the library. In partnership with Chino Valley and Prescott, twelve vehicles were sent to the area. In addition, three Town Council members built a partnership to collect and deliver books for the Pascagoula Library. Volunteer drivers then delivered the 10,000 books to Mississippi. Through their generosity, Prescott Valley shows the power of volunteer service in helping to meet community needs.

National Service

Angela Cole (Prescott Valley) – As an AmeriCorps*VISTA, Ms. Cole has embraced the mission of growing and strengthening a collaborative partnership of 30 organizations to foster a strength-based intergenerational collaboration and mobilization in Yavapai County. She secured \$300,000 in new revenue for Generations United of Yavapai County. As a VISTA team-leader, Ms. Cole recruited and trained five highly qualified VISTA members for a countywide VISTA team. Ms. Cole helped facilitate a multigenerational community clean up project that received a Join Hands Day Excellence Award for 2006. Ms. Cole has shown innovative thinking and leadership.

Robert Preston (Tempe) – As an AmeriCorps*VISTA, Mr. Preston was tasked with supporting the 2006 Rock and Roll Paint-A-Thon that was held on Make A Difference Day, October 28, 2006. Mr. Preston helped raise over \$100,000, recruited over 3,500 volunteers and coordinated the painting of over 120 homes, a school and St. Vincent de Paul dining halls in Phoenix and Tucson. Mr. Preston secured over 30,000 gallons of paint and coordinated a project launch that featured Phoenix Mayor Phil Gordon as a keynote speaker. As a VISTA, Mr. Preston already understood the value of service. He then went above and beyond and demonstrated the value of national service in a community.

Service-Learning

Anne Ashton Goldfeld (Scottsdale) – Ms. Goldfeld started Resources for Health Roots & Shoots, modeled after the Jane Goodall Institute’s program. The program empowers young people to engage in projects that care for the environment, animals, and people. The program has grown to include over 100 families and involves home-schooled children ages 2 through 17 in approximately 100 volunteer projects. Ms. Goldfeld’s vision and dedication empowers youth to find and use their voice to speak out on important issues. Through dedicated innovative service,

Ms. Goldfield has become a steward for our environment, animals and our community as a whole.

Dawn M. Rhodes (Mesa) – Ms. Rhodes coordinates the Service Learning Assistant Program for Mesa Community College. In partnership with the Mesa Fire Department, Ms. Rhodes helped found the Holiday Charity Ride, which kicks-off the annual toy drive and has involved 2,500 volunteers in the past five years. Ms. Rhodes mentors non-profit agencies and serves on the advisory board of the Mesa Senior Service's Caring Corps. She has cultivated relationships with over 300 community agencies and non-profits through which college students serve as volunteers. Ms. Rhodes' dedication is an inspiration.

A very special thanks to this years entertainment...

The Chandler-Gilbert Community College (CGCC) Vocal Jazz Ensemble is a 13-member group that represents the very best of Chandler-Gilbert Community College's well-respected vocal major program. The CGCC "VJs" have performed at various festivals and concerts throughout the Valley, and has earned a statewide reputation in recent years as one of the best collegiate vocal jazz groups in Arizona. Their repertoire includes a wide variety of styles of vocal jazz, including swing-era, modern, classical jazz, Latin and blues.

The 2006-07 Ensemble features: Jennifer Skabelund, Katie McAllister, Chalise Cole, Holly King, Jania Bogar, Heidi Wilcken, Ryan Sorrells, Brandon Hughes, Ray Lebert, Aaron Shively, Brigham Bunker, David Richards and Kyle Bartlett. **Marcus Denton**, the director of the CGCC Vocal Jazz Ensemble, is currently the director of the Vocal Music Department of CGCC.

